

Weekly Column for May 5, 2005

It is a beautiful day for a walk in the City of Troy, which means it's a beautiful day for me to let you know about all the great places to eat and drink in downtown.

Some of these places you will know well, others are brand new and you may not have had a chance to visit them yet. Either way, there is a bevy of lunchtime culinary delights awaiting you in our historic downtown.

If we start along River Street near City Hall, we have two places that have opened recently that offer terrific Middle Eastern fare. The elder of the two establishments is on the second block of the antiques district and is called Albaraki, which boasts that it has the Capital Region's best falafel. You won't hear much an argument from me. The other new establishment is the Marmora Café, located squarely in the middle of the first block of River Street past City Hall. I suggest going for the baklava or grape leaves. Delicious.

When it comes to café's I don't even know where to begin. The new Illium Café is located right on Broadway, and has a nice selection of pastries and sandwiches. You may be aware that a new Dunkin Donuts recently opened on Broadway and 4<sup>th</sup> Street. I know many people who love the coffee here, but I liked it moving in for a different reason. It was a big business moving into a vacant building in downtown Troy. That makes me smile.

Further up Broadway on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue are two of my favorite places in the City. The first is called Arnet's on north corner of 5<sup>th</sup>. Arnet's has a great selection of food, and is a wonderful place to stop for lunch. So is the establishment across the street, which is run by one of my favorite people in the world- Francesca's Café. For those who don't know, that is my wife, and yes, her sandwiches are great, as is the service.

Over on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is the Commissary, which has large breakfast sandwiches and always sports a good lunch special.

One of the best places for a cup of coffee in the entire capital district is The Daily Grind, which recently moved from its location on Broadway to a new spot on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. If I may say so, it was a terrific move. The new spot is gorgeous, always seems to be full, and has great entertainment during the week. In my opinion, this is one of the places that will be a part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street revitalization in years to come.

Amazingly this is just the beginning of great places to grab a quick bite to eat during the day. There's Subway, Bruegger's Bagels, and of course Famous Lunch.

Next week we'll talk about all the wonderful restaurants we have to choose from, just in time for the great weather. Have a relaxing weekend, and Happy Mother's Day to all mother's out there.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy